

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A portable device capable of operation with a host platform, the portable device comprising:
  - a coupling device for coupling the portable device to a serial bus of the host platform;
  - a non-volatile memory in communication with said coupling device;
  - a digital camera, integrally formed with said non-volatile memory, for capturing image and/or audio information, said non-volatile memory capable of storing said image and/or audio information; and
  - a microprocessor for at least in part formatting said image and/or audio information in a standard image and/or audio file format compatible with the host platform.
2. A portable device as recited in claim 1, said non-volatile memory comprising flash memory.
3. A portable device as recited in claim 1, said coupling device capable of coupling to a USB port of the host platform.
4. A portable device as recited in claim 1, said standard image and/or audio file format comprising a JPEG file format.
5. A portable device as recited in claim 1, said standard image

and/or audio file format comprising a GIF file format.

6. A portable device as recited in claim 1, said standard image and/or audio file format comprising a PICT II file format.
7. A portable device as recited in claim 1, said standard image and/or audio file format comprising an MPEG file format.
8. A portable device as recited in claim 1, further comprising a power supply circuit for receiving power from the host platform and providing said power to components of the portable device.
9. A portable device as recited in claim 1, further comprising a power source for providing power to components of the portable device.
10. A portable device capable of operation with a host platform, the portable device comprising:
  - a coupling device for coupling the portable device to a serial bus of the host platform;
  - a non-volatile memory in communication with said coupling device;
  - a digital camera for capturing image and/or audio information, said non-volatile memory capable of storing said image and/or audio information;

a flexible communications cable for coupling said digital camera to said non-volatile memory, said flexible communications cable allowing said digital camera to move with respect to said non-volatile memory.

11. A portable device as recited in claim 10, further comprising a microprocessor for at least in part formatting said image and/or audio information in a standard image and/or audio file format compatible with the host platform.
12. A method of capturing image and/or audio information and uploading the image and/or audio information to a host platform, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) capturing image and/or audio data;
  - (b) digitizing said image and/or audio data captured in said step (a);
  - (c) processing said image and/or audio data digitized in said step (b) into a form compatible with the host platform; and
  - (d) uploading said image and/or audio data to the host platform via a coupling to a serial port of the host platform.
13. A method of capturing image and/or audio information as recited in claim 12, further comprising a step (e) of storing said image and/or audio data in a volatile memory.
14. A method of authenticating an operator seeking access to

information on a storage medium, comprising the steps of:

(a) capturing image and/or audio identification data via a digital camera;

(b) comparing at least portions of said image and/or audio data against a template stored in a memory; and

(c) allowing access to the information if the image and/or audio identification data matches the stored template upon comparison in said step (b).